Colorado Charter School Institute
1600 Broadway, Suite 1250
Denver, CO 80202

June 5, 2020

Dear Colorado Charter School Board,

The NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN) formally extends its support for Kwiyagatu Community Academy (KCA) located in Towaoc, Colorado. NACA stands for Native American Community Academy, which is our flagship school serving grades K-12 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The mission of NACA is to engage students, educators, families and community in creating a school that will prepare students to grow from early childhood to adulthood and begin strengthening communities by developing strong leaders who are academically prepared, secure in their identity and healthy. NACA is a public charter school and just wrapped up its fourteenth year of operation.

In 2015, NISN was created, developed around a 3-year Fellowship to train educators in best practices in Indigenous Education, and to prepare them with the knowledge, skills, and direct support to launch or restart community-led schools in Indigenous communities.

Kwiyagatu Community Academy (KCA) is a school born from the Ute Mountain Ute community's dreams - a place where language, culture, wellness and intergenerational learning are elevated. NISN believes in this type of community-led transformation. Thus, we support Indigenous communities in reimagining what education would be like by developing culturally excellent and relevant schools.

As a school in the network, KCA will join a community of practitioners who are student-centered, value culturally and linguistically responsive teaching methods, are committed to learning from one another and practice reflection and continuous improvement. With NISN as a partner, KCA school leaders can expect support in various ways. We work closely to develop and sustain the schools' Instructional Lead Teams to focus on teaching and learning, facilitate NISN All School Leadership Summits to convene and cross-share, and NISN Monthly Admin convenings to examine problems of practice. During the summers, we provide contract stipends ($2,000/school site) to network teachers with our Summer Curriculum Institute which is adapted

to every schools' needs. Being a new school, KCA could apply these stipends to have teachers build out their individual unit plans based on the year-long curriculum maps that are in development. Finally, as a sister school to NACA and seven other schools in the network, KCA will have access to tools, templates and best practices in serving Indigenous students and their families.

Furthermore, NISN may provide Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant funding to support planning and implementation in year zero. Through CSP funds we anticipate being able to cover up to $77,500 in start up costs which include curriculum enhancements, supplies and materials, classroom furniture, assessments and general technology and technology infrastructure and facilities planning. This would subsidize most costs associated with the purchase of the Infinite Campus student information system and the short cycle assessment, aimswebPlus. NISN will not be able to provide this funding if KCA is awarded its own CSP grant.

Last, NISN provides limited technical assistance to our network schools in the area of facility and operational functions. We provide support regarding the school's work with local state, federal and tribal organizations to identify facility grounds, planning, design, construction, maintenance, information technology, food services, and transportation. Since the school's founding team, together with the local community are primarily responsible in determining these aspects of the school, the network assists only in a limited capacity.

NISN is committed to supporting KCA in it's launch and growth over time.

Sincerely,

Anpao Duta Flying Earth
Executive Director
NACA Inspired Schools Network